

REMARKS

Please cancel Claims 1, 3 and 17 without prejudice. Claims 2, 4, 6, 10-14, 16, 18-19, 29 and 32 are amended herein. Claims in the instant case are Claims 2, 4-16 and 18-32. No new matter has been introduced.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating allowable subject matter. The Examiner has indicated that Claims 6-9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the following discussion which the Applicants believe to overcome the rejection of record.

103 Rejection

Claims 1, 3-5, 10, 11, 16-20, 25 and 28-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fishkin (US Patent No.6,243,075). The subject matter of independent Claim 1 and intervening Claim 3 have been incorporated into Claim 6. Claim 6 is indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of its base claim (Claim 1) and any intervening claims (Claim 3). Claim 6 is therefore in condition for allowance. Claims 2, 4 and 10-14 are amended herein to depend from Claim 6 and, along with Claims 5, 7-9 and 15, which also depend from Claim 6, are therefore also in condition for

allowance as being dependent on an allowable base claim. Accordingly, a discussion of the rejection of Claims 1, 3-5, 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is rendered moot at this time.

The subject matter of Claim 6, along with that of intervening Claim 3, has been incorporated into independent Claims 16 and 29. Claims 16 and 29 are therefore believed to be in condition for allowance. Claim 17 is cancelled herein. Claims 18-20, 25, 28 and 30-32 are therefore also believed to be in condition for allowance as being dependent on an allowable base claim. Accordingly, a discussion of the rejection of Claims 16-20, 25 and 28-32 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is rendered moot at this time.

Claims 2 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fishkin and Pelrine, a SRI international reference as noted in the background to the invention. As described above, independent Claims 6 and 16, as amended, are in condition for allowance. Claim 2 is dependent on allowable Claim 6 and Claim 27 is dependent on allowable Claim 16 and they are therefore in condition for allowance as being dependent on allowable base claims. Accordingly, a discussion of the rejection of Claims 2 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is rendered moot at this time.

Claims 12 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fishkin and US Patent 4,857,916 to Bellin. As described above, independent Claims 6 and 16, as amended, are in condition for allowance. Claim 12 is dependent on allowable Claim 6 and Claim 26 is dependent on allowable Claim 16 and they are therefore in condition for allowance as being dependent on allowable base claims. Accordingly, a discussion of the rejection of Claims 12 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is rendered moot at this time.

Claims 13-15 and 21-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fishkin and Kornbluh, a SRI international reference as noted in the background to the invention. As described above, independent Claims 6 and 16, as amended, are in condition for allowance. Claims 13-15 are dependent on allowable Claim 6 and Claims 21-24 are dependent on allowable Claim 16 and are therefore in condition for allowance as being dependent on allowable base claims. Accordingly, a discussion of the rejection of Claims 13-15 and 21-24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is rendered moot at this time.

CONCLUSION

Based on the arguments presented above, it is respectfully asserted that Claims 2, 4-16 and 18-32 overcome the rejections of record and, therefore, allowance of these Claims is respectfully solicited.


Applicants further point out that no contested Claims remain in the present Application.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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